

POLICY

Staff must provide youths with opportunities to voluntarily participate in religious activities while in residential facilities.

PURPOSE

To ensure that youths can participate in religious activities of their choice.

DEFINITIONS

See JRG, JJ Residential Glossary.

**RESPONSIBLE
STAFF**

Designated in the facility standard operating procedure.

**RELIGIOUS
PROCEDURES**

Each facility must develop and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) relative to religious programming and activities. At a minimum, SOPs must contain the following requirements:

**Duties of
Religious
Coordinator**

The religious coordinator must:

- Review religious literature provided to youth.
- Arrange worship services.
- Collaborate with local community leaders.
- Ensure religious personnel are informed of and follow the facility's safety, security and operating procedures.
- Ensure adequate and appropriate space, equipment and supplies are provided for religious services subject to security, space and budgetary concerns.

**Duties of
Facility Director
or Designee**

The facility director or designee must:

- Screen volunteers for criminal history and placement on the children's protective services Child Abuse/Neglect Central Registry (CA/NCR).
- Ensure the facility has a chaplain or staff member designated as the religious coordinator.
- Ensure direct care staff presence at all services.
- Record religious activities in facility log.
- Review requests for special diet or specialized rituals.
- Grant youths in secure facilities approval to attend formal off-site religious services (See JR2 221).

**Youth
Involvement**

Staff determine and document the religious preference of youth during the admissions and/or assessment process.

Youth participation is voluntary.

Other planned activities are available for youth who choose to not participate in religious activities.

AUTHORITY

Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 USC 2000cc, et seq.

Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.115a(1)(l)

Child Caring Institutions Rules, R400.4138